agricultural commodities are announced each season by the Government. The Government also undertakes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. The price policy seeks to ensure remunerative prices to all size classes of farmers-small marginal and big-for their produce with a veiw to encourage higher investment and production. This has helped to raise production and productivity on farms. The data collected under agriculture census and other surveys have shown that the use of inputs and yields per ha. on small and marginal farms is not lower than that of big farms. All classes of farmers have contributed to achieving all time high foodgrains production in the country. This proves that benefits of the technology, price and other policies pursued by the Government have equally benefited the small and marginal farmers. Small farmers agri business consortium has been registered to promote economic efficiency and infrastructural soundness in agricultural sector and tackle the problems of poverty and unemployment so rampant on small holdings through production and marketing linkages. Incentives are provided to resource-poor farmers for the use of seeds of location specific high yielding varieties and improved farm implements.

Slow Rehabilitation Programme of Earthquake Victims

653. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rehabilitation programme of earthquake affected persons in Marathwada is slow;

(b) the target date for completion of the programme and the progress made till date; and

(c) the mechanism devised to monitor the work of rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme is generally progressing as per schedule.

(b) The target date for completion of the programme is June, 1997. Out of 23394 houses to be constructed under the Programme, upto the end of September, 1995, 8702 houses spread over 42 villages have been completed. 9628 houses are at various stages of construction.

(c) The Government of Maharashtra has constituted an Earthquake Rehabilitation Cell to monitor the progress of implementation of the project.

Credibility of Management Colleges

654. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study with regard to the mushrooming of the Management Colleges and Institutes in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the credibility of these colleges and institutes, the adequacy or otherwise of the teaching facilities and expertise provided by these colleges and institutes; and whether the degrees awarded by them are recognised by Government; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to conduct such a study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is a statutory body established under the AICTE Act 1987 for ensuring coordinated development of technical and management education in